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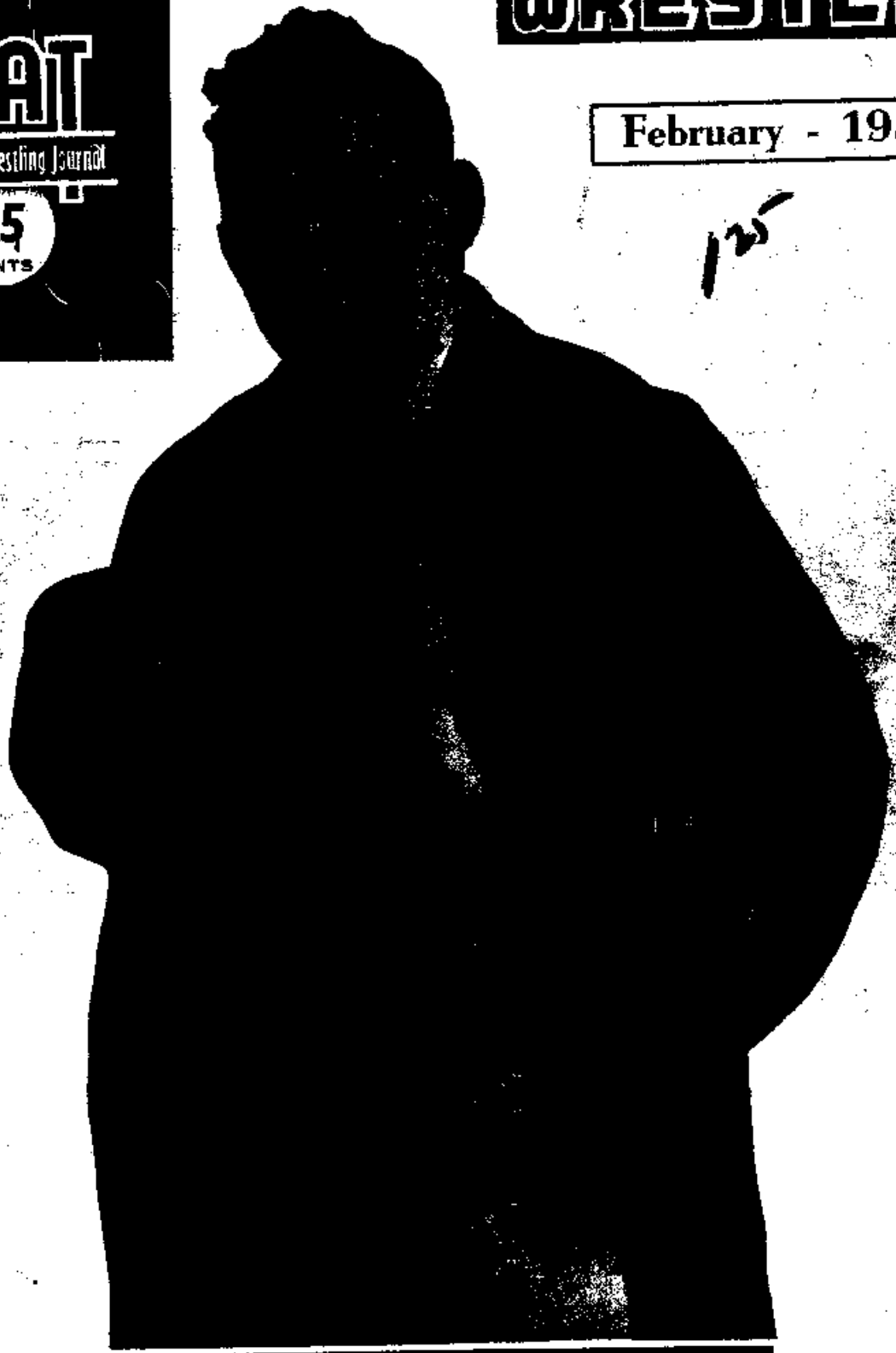

THE FARMER

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MAT

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Promoters, Managers, Wrestlers and Wrestling Fans all over the world, are asked to co-operate with us in presenting news and pictures of world wrestling to the wrestling world. Send us your pictures and stories. MAT magazine leads the rest in its presentation of wrestling items, and it is due to the co-operation of thousands of individuals of similar interest that we are able to publish the variety and number of interesting items and pictures month by month. YOUR co-operation is what we want. You may think it doesn't matter. It does matter. SEND US YOUR ITEMS ALONG TO-DAY.

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WHAT A PERFECT COMBINATION - No Wonder ~~we're~~ he's a Champion ! !

Edith Bustfield puts husband George through his paces.

An exclusive MAT feature

IT'S NO USE SQUEALING!

by JAMES GUTHRIE

JIM MALONEY, famed London star comes up smiling after every knockdown—including the finish to his career, says GRAHAM GUTHRIE.

THE first thing that one learns when studying the art of wrestling, is the way to take a fall—to breakfall, in other words—in such a manner that no injury is sustained. This is only one tiny part of the tremendous similarity between wrestling and life in general; for are not the two things interlinked? Is life not a series of bouts in which either the best man, or circumstance can be the victor? I have found it so, to a marked degree, including the fact that my varying successes have varied the number of friends—in mat parlance, fans—that I could call my own, most noticeably. But that point about the breakfall—it is interesting to note that experience on the mat teaches a man to avoid injury from the bumps and slams that become routine, in the same way as the blows that fate can aim are to be avoided by philosophy and experience.

A living example of this is the ever-cheerful and always philosophical **JIM MALONEY**, whose retirement from the ring two years—nearly three now that I come to think of it—ago robbed wrestling of one of the Old Guard, at a time when he could still have disposed of plenty of the young ones. This was not due to an injury received in the ring, strangely enough, but to a cut from a broken bucket in his own back garden, which brought about sceptis and then osteo-arthritis of the left leg, leaving Jim with a permanent limp. For two years it was likely that Jim would lose that leg, but, to talk to him, one would think that a bout of influenza was the worst that he had ever suffered.

Life for Jim Maloney was full of hard knocks in the ring. He was born in Islington in 1904 and started his athletic career in weightlifting and boxing. Finding that his build was ideal for wrestling, and liking the sport for its beneficial effect on his fitness, he joined the famed Ashdown Club in White Lion Street at the age of twenty. For four years he met all comers, and amateur wrestling was full of hard characters then, culminating in the semi-finals of the International Championships of 1928 in which he was beaten only by an Indian.

His next step was entry into the paid ranks, where his international experience stood him in good stead. There were Americans and Canadians barnstorming all over the country, and they provided Jim with some of the hardest competition that he ever met. His hardest contest, however, was with the great little Jewish Champion, **HARRY RABIN**, at Tufnell Park in 1936. They wrestled for a full hour, without rounds and with no score to one of the greatest drawn battles ever seen.

It is typical of Jim, who wore the badge of his profession in the shape of two wonderful ears, that this little story should be told of him. He was, it appears, sitting in a country restaurant, when an inquisitive elderly lady asked him how the ears originated. He replied that he played the violin in an orchestra. Puzzled, the old lady enquired how that would affect the ears. Jim said: "Well, I sit in front of the trombone player." Such jokes were really Jim. He always had a witty reply for all times, and it very rarely that a company was not the happier for his joining them. He never allowed his humour to enter the ring with him, however, for otherwise his career would not have been studded with the honours that fell to him.

It is only to be expected that a man like Jim Maloney would have interests outside the ring, for his was—and is—always the enquiring mind, and he is ever on the alert for further matters that will add to his remarkable knowledge of people and events. He plays the piano very well, being an inveterate exponent of Chopin, Greig and Beethoven; he acquits himself with honours in the art of painting in watercolours, his favourites being the depict-

HERCULES FELIX MIQUET, famous French-Canadian wrestler hoists two fellow-countrymen aloft with no trouble at all! Up there on top are MAURICE ROBERT and ARTHUR LEGRAND, and we imagine that if the ceiling had only been a little higher, Felix would have managed one or two more besides.

BIG BILL VERNA of Singapore throws yet another opponents during his European wrestling tour.

ing of landscapes and birds. He reads widely, his favourite author being Upton Sinclair. As if all this were not enough, he is deeply interested in the sciences of philosophy and ethics. The latter is an interest that I share with him, and we have talked very often about it. He rounds this imposing list off with an enquiring delve into metaphysics and the psychic world. He has stories to tell of amazing events in this sphere that have astounded me.

You will now see the closeness with which the knocks of wrestling and those of life come together. All through his life, Jim has been battling, many times in what seemed to be hopeless bouts, and all along the line he has been winning his battles. It takes all the courage at a man's disposal to do this through the nearly 1,500 ring contests that have been Jim's pride. He has never been anything but a credit to his chosen calling, and it was with the same courage and coolness that he displayed in the ring that he faced the end of it all, when the doctors told him that he would never walk again. HE BEAT THEM, TOO, FOR APART FROM THE LIMP, HE WALKS ABOUT AS EVER HE DID. He has been lucky in finding a comfortable situation with his local Borough Council as an assistant surveyor—rather a strange calling for a man who, some of our critics would tell us, belongs to a race of sub-human brutes with little intelligence. He is a living example of the type of man who lifts wrestling out of the abyss into which the Grundy's have pushed it. His fellow members of the Committee of the local Boys' Club will testify to that.

His pet hold, by the way, was the Flying Head Scissors, and I have seen him applying it with such remarkable speed and effect that has never since been duplicated. He is truculently firm in his opinion that all who criticise wrestling should try a contest now and then—or just the once. That should change their views. He knows and will tell you that wrestlers are stronger and fitter than the average boxer and they last longer. This, he claims, is due to the continual punching of head and the internal organs which lie near the surface of the body. It is rare for a boxer to be outstandingly successful after thirty years of age, owing to this fact, whereas the wrestler who knows his science can carry on well into the forties.

His advice to aspirants would be summed up in the words, "Learn Well, Train Well." This will mean that one has to learn to take it without damage to oneself, for that is the secret of defence in wrestling. Which brings us back to the beginning, by giving us the example of wrestling as a code of life.

THE FARMER

ONE of the youngest of the heavyweight division of British wrestling The Farmer is most modest in view of his remarkable achievements since his first contest at the early age of 16. He's a quiet young chap of around 16½ stone, has a pleasant appearance and an obliging manner, and though in the ring he is a man to be feared, out of it he is easy to get on with.

What is it that has taken this fine young Yorkshireman to the top? It isn't that he has met only the 'easy' men. No sir, for there is hardly a leading heavyweight in Great Britain that has not felt the full force of his celebrated K.O. at some time or other. And there are wrestlers all over the world that will vouch for the deadening effect it has as it lands, backed up by the tremendous driving power of his powerful shoulders. Every ounce of his 230 pounds goes into that K.O. 'special' of his, and few opponents need a second dose of this medicine! Don't think for a moment that this is his only asset. Nothing could be further from the truth, for he is not the only one in wrestling to be able to deal out tremendous punishment of this kind, nor is he so much stronger than the rest he comes up against. Just think of some of the men you have seen him in action against and you will readily admit these points.

There are a few things that contribute to his success in the ring. Remember, that he IS a farmer and remember that even with an ordinary person this usually spells good health and a high degree of fitness. And when that farmer is The Farmer, then the combination of that sort of work with this particular individual is nearly bound to produce a man of Herculean strength and endurance such as he.

But it is no good thinking that even these great assets are the only pre-requisites needed to reach the high spots in the grappling sport. And The Farmer knows better than anyone that energy

wasted is useless against the big, strong heavyweights he tussles with on the mat. He knew that when he first came into wrestling, and has never forgotten the advice of a famous wrestling personality, now dead, who told him when he began training for his very first contest, "Get your movements well timed—conserve your energy for a moment of YOUR selection and then give them all you've got. You have a 'winner' if you can synchronise your tremendous shoulder power into a K.O. blow, well timed and delivered correctly."

Hours and hours of gymnasium training, often tedious and always hard, have perfected the greatest and most lethal blow in Europe. In a statement to a MAT representative, he remarked, "I know fans shout and tell me to 'let him have it,' but why should I? Wrestling is something I enjoy. If I didn't enjoy it, do you think I would spend hours travelling all over the country, when I have all this work to do on my farm? I enjoy it, and am always prepared to wrestle it out to a fall decision with anyone, but if they set a different pace for me and insist on trying to settle the issue by tough methods what have I to do? I train pretty hard, quite apart from my work, which is not bad training, you know! And I always spend an hour every day in a special routine that I have developed for myself in order that I retain my K.O. in case I need it on any particular occasion."

That's what The Farmer said! Fans everywhere pack the halls when he is billed, and he has always strong vocal support from the younger supporters. To many he is the ideal hero. It often takes him up to an hour to get away from a wrestling stadium due to the insistence of autograph hunters, amongst whom his autograph is greatly prized. In fact, at one hall recently, some of the more businesslike of the autograph 'hounds' were doing a roaring business swapping one signature of The Farmer's for four others.

What are his chances of becoming British Champion? We don't know whether he will or not, but thousands of fans will agree with us when we hazard a guess that when the first heavyweight champion under the Lord Mount-Evans Rules is acclaimed, The Farmer will be well in the running.

Asked what he thought of the Mount-Evans Rules, he replied: "The finest thing that ever happened to British wrestling. They're fair and a wrestler is in no doubt where he stands with these rules. Foreign wrestlers have a much better chance of keeping out of trouble with these rules as they now have something they can study beforehand and adapt themselves to. In the past foreign wrestlers have had a raw deal as most of them have had to change their styles without being able to refer to rulings that threw light on what was and what was not allowed. Every hold in the Mount-Evans Rules is a sound wrestling-hold, and every move is fair and clearly defined. That's what has been needed for a long time now, and these rules are a milestone in wrestling history."

★

GREATEST K.O. specialist in Europe

THE FARMER

of Yorkshire

WRESTLING NEWSREEL-

AMERICAN NOTES

The SWEDISH ANGEL.
(PHIL OLOFSSON.)
NOW A SUCCESSFUL PROMOTER IN SALT LAKE CITY. U.S.A.

Mike Sharp recently took the Pacific Heavyweight title from **Gino Garabaldi** at the Coliseum Bowl in San Francisco. Sharpe threw Garabaldi out of the ring and Gino was counted out when he failed to get back in the ring in time.

Former N.W.A. junior heavyweight champion, **Leroy McGuirk,** who is entirely blind as a result of an automobile accident, has made his debut as a promoter in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Most wrestling experts give **Gus Sonnenberg** (former football star and heavyweight wrestling champion) credit for originating the flying body block in wrestling. Recently Nat Fleischer, editor and owner of the magazine "Ring" said that **Earl Caddock** was the first to introduce it on February 6th, 1922, at Madison Square Garden, in a match with **Stanislaus Zybysko.**

Promoter **Fred Kohler** believes firmly that **Zuma,** 'the man from Mars,' will become one of the most popular and successful wrestlers in the near future.

Recently **Bill Longson** came back into the spotlight of top wrestlers when he won a tournament in the Southwest to re-establish himself as a contender to **Lou Thesz's** N.W.A. championship.

Eastern fans were amazed to see **Ruffy Silverstein,** 5ft. 8ins., 212lbs., go 35 minutes to a draw with **Primo Carnera,** 6ft. 6ins., 265lbs. What Ruffy lacked in weight and size he more than made up for in speed and using his brains.

The former great wrestler, **John Pesek,** 55 years old, has offered **Lou Thesz $1,000** if he was not defeated by John during an hour match 2 out of 3 falls. So far Thesz has not taken the offer.

Many experts agree that son **Jack Pesek** will become an even greater figure in the world of wrestling than his father was.

Orville Brown has started on his comeback trial out. It will be a long hard climb before he can come in contention with Lou Thesz's N.W.A. title.

Verne Gagne recently won an elimination tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to become recognised by the National Wrestling Alliance as Junior Heavyweight Champion of the World.

Leo Nomellini, the grid-iron star from Minnesota University, has turned to pro wrestling. He is under the wing of **Tony Stecher.** Leo the Lion, as he is nicknamed, is 6ft. 2½ins., with a well developed bodyweight of 260lbs. Promoters are hoping he will become another Gus Sonnenberg.

One of the most popular wrestlers to come to this country is **Sheik Lawrence** of Egypt. He is a classy wrestler of top notch calibre. In 1946 he won the title "Mr. Egypt." He has been wrestling on the west coast and has never been defeated.

Bill Goetz, junior heavyweight champion of Chicago, has officially challenged **Verne Gagne** to meet him.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis spends most of his time these days teaching the fundamentals of wrestling to teen-agers. Ed. also acts as referee now and again.

Very few wrestlers enter the pro ranks ready made. In the case of **Frank Sexton,** who is rated as tops by many of the wrestling experts, had a terrible freshman year. He lost 29 matches, and only through hard work and determination has Frank been able to rise to the top.

One of the most popular wrestlers on the east coast is **John Barrend.** John has been wrestling professionally for 3 years but has already drawn with **Lord Carlton, Yvon Robert** and **Gene Stanlee.** He, in my opinion, will be a champion in 7 years. He has everything that is needed.

Mexico has been credited with sending us some mighty clever wrestlers but the latest one, **Enrique Gonzales,** is a humdinger. He has a tremendous build and is very strong. Enrique comes from Acapulco, Mexico and is determined to beat **Lou Thesz** if he ever meets him.

Morris Shapiro has risen rapidly to fame in the mid-west. He is currently making a strong bid for top notch honours.

Fans are confused over the recent arrival of two Japanese wrestlers. One is the **Great Moto,** the other the **Great Togo.** They are not the same wrestlers and neither are they related. Both of them have risen equally to fame.

Primo Carnera has been offered $7,500 a week in vaudeville, taking on all comers.

Midget wrestlers are doing great, drawing tremendous crowds in Missouri. Here are the names of some of them. **Tom Thumb, Little Beaver, Sky Low Low, Pee Wee James, Pancho the Bull, Mighty Frits and Tiny Roe.**

One can't make a mistake about a wrestler's record as was proven by **George Hackenschmidt.** George sued a London paper which stated he was defeated by Stanislaus Zybysko. The judge awarded Hackenschmidt £200 for defamation of his mat record.

JERRY FORD.

* * * *

MIDDLESBOROUGH REPORT

THERE is one thing that is guaranteed to start a heated argument in Middlesbrough and that is the mention of the word wrestling. Middlesbrough is noted for the hardness of its steel and the toughness of the men that produce it and one of the chief recreations of these hard headed iron fisted steelworkers is wrestling. Most of them are content to watch their favourite sport although some of the more hardy specimens have formed their own wrestling club and they meet every week to maul each other around in a friendly sort of way.

The others, those with less surplus energy and more surplus cash make a regular Saturday night pilgrimage to the local wrestling stadium. The Middlesbrough promoter, Norman Morrell, has adopted the wise policy of featuring only top class bills at Middlesbrough and he has been amply repaid with consistently large attendances.

The most popular wrestler to appear at Middlesbrough is undoubtedly **Ernest Baldwin,** the Yorkshire Heavyweight Champion. Although born in Wakefield Ernest is the idol of Tees-side wrestling fans who, much as they admire him as a wrestler, like him plainly for his outstanding sportsmanship. He makes a mockery of those who declaim wrestling as a foul racket because in the ring he is a model of everything a good sportsman should be. Certainly if wrestling was a more popular sport with the National Press Baldwin would be a chief contestant for the title "Sportsman of the Year."

Most of the other well-known wrestlers visit Middlesbrough and the best matman in the classic school is **George Kidd,** the World Lightweight Champion, who never fails to give a brilliant display whenever he appears. Taking everything into consideration it can truthfully be said that the wrestling outlook in Middlesbrough is extremely rosy. Every week the sport attracts new fans and there are very rarely any empty seats at the Stadium to worry promoter Morrell.

* * * *

Karel Istaz—New Belgian Star

In the main bout in Amsterdam recently, **Ken Davies** of Wales, clashed with **The Angel.** Davies reports that there are fine wrestlers in Belgium and speaks highly of **Bert Auwera, Martin Deneef,** and a sensational wrestler by the name of **Karel Istaz,** tipped off by many European experts as a coming European champion. Istaz has collected many trophies in the amateur world and hopes to continue the good work in the professional ranks very soon. He stands 6ft. 2ins. in height and weighs around 16st. 12lbs., with not a spare ounce anywhere. Watch out for the name of Karel Istaz topping bills far beyond his native Belgium. Davies knows a wrestler when he sees one, and if Ken says he is good, well, that's good enough for us!

TONY LANZA has an 'arm up the back' on his opponent, but lost it a second later. His opponent brought him over with his free arm and wriggled clear. In this hold the opponent should be forced face downwards on the mat, otherwise escape is a strong possibility. Tony was trying to do just that, but the other chap realised it also and moved before Lanza got him properly secured.

* * *

Russian Wrestlers Tour Finland

SOVIET wrestlers gained convincing victories in recent contests in Helsinki, Finland, where Soviet athletes had been invited by various Finnish organisations. Both Finland and the Soviet Union entered two teams, an "A" team comprised of full scale internationals and a "B" team of reserves.

Both the Soviet teams won by seven points to one, Englas, light-heavyweight, dropping a decision on points to Grendal, Finland; and in the "B" team match, Lents, bantamweight, was outpointed in a fine contest by Joganson, Finland.

Leading Finnish sports writers gave glowing accounts of the heavyweight bouts in which A. Mazur of the U.S.S.R. pinned his Finnish opponent Rinkhimnyaki in 2 minutes 12 secs., and I. Kotas, the Soviet champion did even better by defeating Kan Kasmeeli in 1 minute 31 secs.

Following the Helsinki matches the Soviet team went on to Lapau and Lakhti, where single team matches were won without loss of a single bout.

In the U.S.S.R. championships held at Kazan, capital of the Tartar Republic, an entirely new style of wrestling was introduced. The new style is called the Sambo Style, and is a fusion of every style of wrestling practised throughout the Soviet Union. The various styles common in the U.S.S.R. are the Russian belt style, Georgian Chidaubo, Tujik Gushtini, Kazakh Kures and others that were developed in specific localities. The new Sambo Style was introduced in 1939 and followed an extensive study of national forms of wrestling conducted by experts, resulting in this new, fast and dynamic style.

Similarly in Great Britain, after lengthy consideration by wrestling experts there, the Mount-Evans style of wrestling emanated, a style that has done much to raise wrestling to new heights, and which is recognised by the British Promoters' Association as the only style acceptable for Championship matches. This style represents a great step forward and every hold and move in the style is justified by wrestling tradition and modern requirements.

OUR CRITICS . . .

by NORMAN F. BERRY

WRESTLING fans have a lot to do before they can rest complacent that their sport is free from unwarranted attack by mis-informed critics, and let it be noted, not all these critics are antagonistic towards wrestling either! As I have pointed out before on innumerable occasions, the national press makes not the slightest attempt to give wrestling a square deal, and to be perfectly honest about it, I don't think they have any intention of doing. Why bother about them then, you may ask? That is a perfectly reasonable answer, and warrants a reply.

I do not bother about the national press itself, but I am concerned with the effect of their reports and their attitude upon wrestling fans and upon many who would become fans if only they were given factual and well balanced reports. Even individuals who hold responsible positions, and are normally used to thinking out problems for themselves, allow themselves to be misled by prejudiced and hostile writings of reporters who, quite frankly, have not the slightest idea of their own on either historical or contemporary wrestling.

At many contests I have attended, I have sat with my journalistic brethren, and very rarely have I found any of them to have more than a very passing acquaintance with wrestling. Certainly not enough to set themselves up as authorities on the sport. And yet when their writings appear in their papers, one would imagine by the assertions, though not by the sense, that they were the last word on the subject. The national press is a powerful instrument, helping to mould public opinion. It is not responsible to the public, though, and consequently puts over just what it wants on many questions. When it comes to wrestling, all of them are wrong on nearly every point. Why is it that people who doubt the truth of certain reports in every paper except the one that they read, will unhesitatingly accept from any of them the utmost tripe about wrestling? Yet they do.

As editor of this magazine, I have frequently offered to write for the national press on current wrestling problems, etc. What do you think they tell me? Send us something sensational or freakish, they say, with photos that are unusual, and we shall be pleased to consider the matter!! You see, they only want sensational material when dealing with wrestling. Something that will make the hair of elderly spinsters stand on end, something that will depict our sport as they do in the columns of their papers, something that will degrade our sport. They are not interested in the hundreds of normal and well conducted contests that take place each week. No Sir! They want something that will sell their paper, something that will boost circulation, and to blazes with every other consideration. In the battle of truth versus circulation, circulation wins every time with them.

What then do I expect fans to do about this? Well, if I cannot get articles in the press on wrestling, I doubt very much whether our readers will manage to do so. But there is still a lot you can do. In the company you keep, amongst the business associates you meet, and in all your walks of life, do not let mis-informed people get away with misrepresentations of the type that appear in newspapers. Invite these critics to a wrestling contest, and prove to them that wrestling is a first-class sport, attended by intelligent individuals who are much too wise to fall for the baseless assertions of those who earn their living by specialising in gross exaggeration. You can do much to assist those in charge of our sport to refute the charges that are made. Don't go around apologising for your interest in wrestling. Why should you? Tell your friends quite straight that you are a wrestling fan, and that you're proud of it, and bring them along too. If they don't like it they need not come again, but at least you will have convinced them that they were wrong in condemning wrestling.

So will you do your bit? It cannot be done by thinking about it. Only by speaking up on every occasion will you be able to help the sport along

the road on which it has already made rapid progress, the establishment of itself as the number one indoor sport. Ours is a great sport, still smarting slightly under the cloud of former days when one or two silly people did silly things, and being constantly reminded of it by other silly people who talk as if those things actually still exist to-day. Well, it's up to you to dispel such erroneous thinking. We do our little bit, and I can assure you that wrestling authorities are working hard towards the same end and meeting with some considerable success. Do your bit, too, will you, and I know that together we can lift our sport to new heights.

There is nothing wrong with British wrestling. I have seen wrestling in every country where wrestling is practised on any scale, and I say without the slightest fear of contradiction that there is no country in the world where wrestling is conducted better than in Great Britain. That is something of which all connected with the sport can be justly proud, and it is something that those who are constantly cribbing our sport would do well to remember.

One of the main criticisms of wrestling, completely unjustified, but often put forward by quite well intentioned people is it is brutal, and consequently tends to brutalise those who watch it. I know that there are some quite influential groups of people who support this line of thought. Of course, some people talk like this because it sounds a much more reasonable way to 'down' wrestling than the usual methods employed by our critics. I am not concerned with that type of person. But I am concerned with the genuine critics of wrestling.

Well, I must have watched quite a few contests in my time, but I don't think even my worst enemies would accuse me of being brutal myself. And I know many other fans personally, and I honestly do not know a single one whom I could nominate as being in any way brutal. There's nothing brutal about sending a trained athlete crashing to the boards, is there? It might hurt him, yes, but don't people get hurt in this world? It's only a temporary knock down, in any case, and my goodness, judging by the perfect physical condition of the wrestlers I see all over the country they seem to thrive on it.

And really, you know, they choose their profession themselves, and are in no way bound to continue if they don't wish to.

And I know from my experience of wrestling audiences that they are as upstanding and as civilised as any other section of the community, numbering amongst its supporters many of our finest citizens drawn from all ranks of life. So it is of no value to our critics to examine the effects of wrestling on the public.

I wish they would conduct an enquiry into our audiences reaction to wrestling. For then they would find out that the wrestling fan is the very best type of citizen, and that the so-called 'brutality' of wrestling has certainly not brutalised our supporters. And how can it do so? Wrestling is the most manly, most fair, and certainly one of the best conducted sports of the day. There is no brutality about it. When highly trained athletes step into the ring, they are well able to look after themselves, in the pink of condition, and protected against injury by the finest set of rules in the long and glorious career of wrestling. Now what could be better than that?

The British Wrestling Promoters' Association, which is the governing body in British wrestling, has accepted the Mount-Evans Rules for all championship contests, and we shall be publishing these rules very shortly. This body has the very best interests of wrestling at heart. For a long time there was no one body in control of wrestling in Great Britain. Now there is, and this body has the finest wrestling brains in Europe at its disposal, ready to advise on all current wrestling problems. It is to be hoped that those who have for long criticised wrestling will co-operate with this body in its efforts to regularise British wrestling. The Secretary of the B.W.P.A. is Mr. W. Best, c/o Liverpool Stadium, Liverpool. He will be pleased to deal with any queries that any public body may have. Alternatively, I will also be pleased to give assistance to public bodies on any points they may raise.

NEWSREEL—

Mr. "BILLY" BEST of Liverpool Stadium, Secretary of the British Wrestling Promoters' Association snapped in his office by our photographer. Some of the most important contests in Great Britain take place at this stadium every Friday night.

Chick Elliot - Housewife's Friend

We are happy to report that a wrestler has 'made' the British press without having a lot of abuse and falsehood associated with him. Chic Elliott, a well known heavyweight and a greengrocer in private life, is achieving fame with the public and notoriety with other greengrocers by the introduction of a scheme to help housewives cut the cost of living. At his shop in Bury, Lancashire, he allows housewives to buy all their vegetables at cost price, thus saving some of them as much at 5/- per week, which is worth having, isn't it? What does he get out of it? Well, every housewife has to pay 1/- per week for the privilege of buying vegetables at his shop, plus a small 'wastage' charge. The number of customers visiting his shop has jumped tremendously since he started this scheme, but Chic does not mind that. He is making around £14 per week with this scheme, and everyone is well satisfied.

These facts were reported in the "News-Chronicle," a Manchester paper, which we have noticed, is one of the best papers in it's attitude to wrestling. This paper does try to give factual reports on wrestling whenever it deals with the sport, and only on one occasion have we noticed a report that was an incorrect representation of our sport. But that it not too bad. Providing a fair attempt is made that is all anybody can ask, and this paper does seem to do that.

In connection with Chic's enterprise, it is said that other greengrocers in Bury are sceptical about it lasting very long. Do they mean to say that they will take steps with the wholesalers to see that it won't? Because that is the only thing that will stop it, for if housewives and greengrocer in this case are all satisfied, it is bound to be a success. Well done, Chic! By cutting the cost of living you are performing a real service to the community.

A new picture of LES STENT, Doncaster wrestler who rates high in the British welterweight division.

Morris Shapiro - The Mighty Atlas

THE seldom found combination of strength, speed and grace has led Chicago observers to call Morris Shapiro—a thirty-one year old Hebrew—the greatest wrestling prospect in the history of the sport.

Morris, who is often billed as "The Mighty Atlas," due to his unusual strength, came originally from New York City, where his father, who wrestled in Russia as a youth, taught him to excel in wrestling and weightlifting. As a test of his lifting ability, Shapiro has done a 356 pound prone press with weights.

In wrestling where his technique is unique and flawless, he has won nation wide acclaim. His well muscled frame of 220 pounds is walking proof that the ancient 350 pound type of grunt and groan grappler no longer rules the game.

The speed, strength and talent of this clean cut Jewish wrestler first came to the front in the amateur ranks along the Atlantic coast. When he began his career in the pro game, Morris competed as a light-heavyweight and in that class won recognition as world champion by taking top honours in a Detroit tournament in 1940. Later graduating to the heavyweight division, where he has made a great reputation for himself against such top men as Buddy Rogers, Walter Palmer and Cyclone Anaya.

He has often been singled out in the press as the most perfectly constructed athlete now appearing on American mats, and has also posed for magazine covers and appeared in several films.

FEMININE VIEWPOINT -

by "POACHER"

QUITE recently I saw my first wrestling match. When I came out I didn't know whether I wanted to cry or sock someone on the nose! One thing was certain, I thought, I would never go again. That night I dreamed about wrestling and two days later my senses were still bemused, but that feeling of nausea had gone completely and in its place was a feeling of awe and wonder. Looking back now I can see that my mind had forgotten the showmanship and remembered only the skill and ability displayed by the contestants. To be brief, I went again the following week. I tried to close my mind to the showmanship and remember that these men were trained athletes well able to stand up to the rigours of the sport. Well, I must have succeeded for this time there was only a wonderful sense of exhilaration and enthusiasm. I had never been so thrilled in my life!

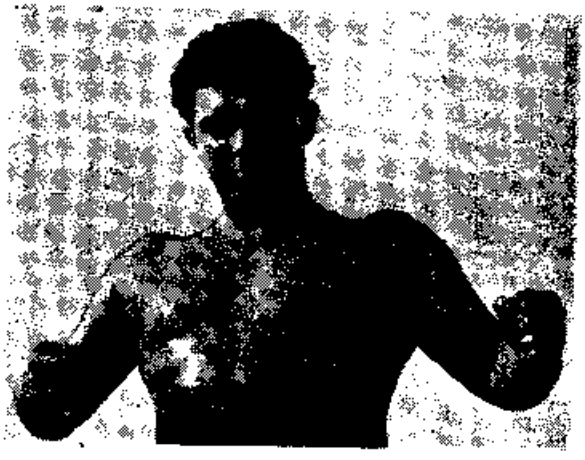
Now I go regularly and wouldn't miss for anything. I find that I'm as thrilled as ever but I'm beginning to appreciate more of the science of the sport, and this gives an added interest.

To those women who have never seen a wrestling match I should like to say: "Don't be put off by what you may hear." When I first went it was probably as much what I'd heard in the past as the impact the sport made on my senses that made me feel sick.

The first time or two it is difficult for a sensitive person not to take every move to heart. Every time a contestant is thrown, the thud as he hits the canvas goes through them. Every gasp and groan spells "PAIN" to the fresh onlooker and it is only when they have seen wrestling a few times that they will be able to appreciate the sport.

If only people could cultivate the right attitude from the beginning there would be much less talk about wrestling being a cruel sport. Wrestlers are trained to give and take punishment in the ring and the referee is there to see they don't get badly hurt. Should the unforseen happen, and don't forget an injury is as likely in any other sport as in wrestling, then they receive attention from the seconds straight away.

JIM HOLDEN of Lancashire, a clean cut wrestler with a big following throughout Great Britain. Jim has earned a reputation of always giving a good account of himself, and there can be no doubt that he ranks high with the fans.



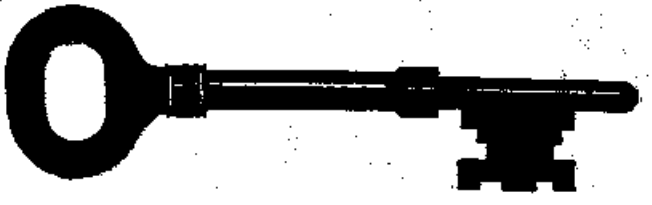
REX REGAN of Manchester, a city that has given us some of the best wrestlers in the ring to-day, is yet another to enter the professional ranks of our sport.

To those women who may think there is anything remotely indecent in the sport, all I can say is whoever gave them that idea must have a twisted mind.

Of course there are women who could never adopt a detached attitude. My mother is one. She was thrilled and excited at the skill of the sport too, but because she identified herself too closely with the contestants she could never relax enough to appreciate the sport to any large degree.

To those who say a woman who goes to wrestling matches is either hard-hearted or callous, let me hasten to state that I'm neither. The merest hint of sentiment at the cinema brings tears to my eyes and to see a defenceless person or animal hurt always upsets me, but I go to wrestling and thoroughly enjoy it simply because I have the right approach.

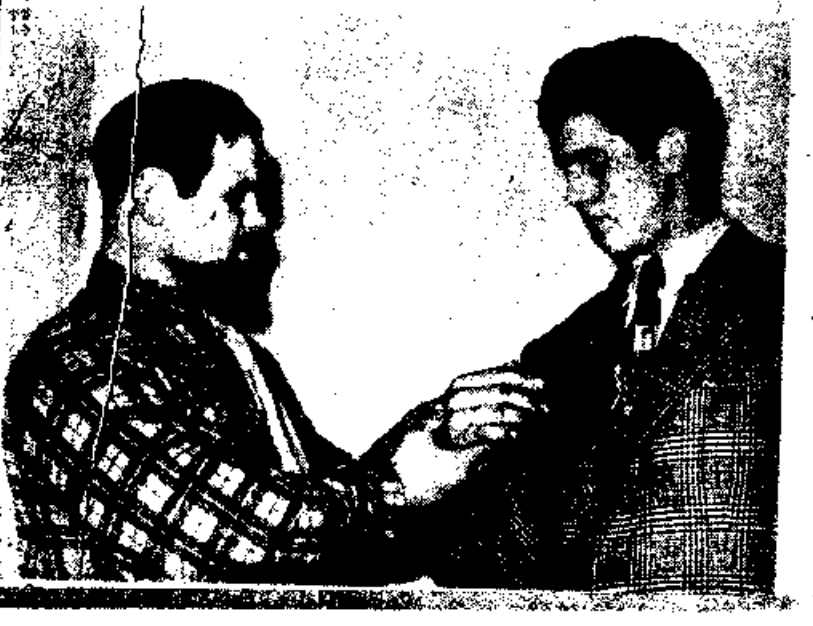
Finally, to women who have never seen a wrestling match before, I would like to say this: "Why not go and find out for yourself if there is really any grounds for your aversion?" If you give it a fair trial I think you will agree with me when I say it is one of the finest indoor sports there is to-day.



(Top left). Midgets in action. **MIKE LANGLOIS** has **PEE WEE JAMES** by the legs in this Montreal contest. James won. Come to think of it, have we got the picture right way up? Looks about the same either way to us!!

(Top right). **CHIC KNIGHT** has a head scissors on his opposite number in a bout at the Erdington Stadium, Birmingham, England.

(Bottom right). Bearded **KEN DAVIES** of Wales instructs the younger generation in the structure of the hand just prior to a bout at Wakefield, England. (Bottom left). **GEORGE BROWN** looks a little displeased as he receives what the fans call a 'Face massage' at the hands of **BOB TAYLOR** in Montreal. However, when he did manage to extricate himself he went on to win after a very hard fought contest.



(Top right). PAUL NERON has a 'cobra' hold on ERNIAR OLSEN of Wisconsin, U.S.A. A packed stadium saw these two wrestle a thrilling draw at Quebec.

(Top left). EDDIE (Flash) BARKER of Canada, now wrestling in England, is seen here wrestling at Capetown, South Africa, against one of the top line wrestlers in that part of the globe, MANIE MARITZ (Bottom left). BOB MACDONALD (left), BOB 'Legs' LANGEVIN (centre) and ROY McLARTY, sit down for a chat and a drink in Langevin's restaurant in Montreal.

(Bottom right). Find us a heavyweight with as many moves to his credit as GEORGE KIDD of Dundee, Scotland, Lightweight Champion of the World, and you will have found us a world-beater. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well, go right ahead and see how long it takes you. One of the biggest 'little' men who ever trod the mat, George is the cleverest man we have seen so far, and we advise every fan to see this great Scotchman when he visits your stadium.

AUSTRALIAN *commentary*

From
T. A. GANNON
our Australian Correspondent

KEN KENNETH Arrives In Australia

LATEST arrival in Australia is Ken Kenneth of New Zealand, who is the holder of the championship of his country. This is Kenneth's second visit to Australia as he appeared here in 1941. Although the Kiwi grappler was only starting out in the game he showed a lot of ability and was a popular favourite at the famous Leichhardt Stadium where he figured in stirring contests against Fred Atkins, Pat Meehan, Joe Carbett, Jaget Singh and Lofty Blomfield. Since that time, Kenneth has appeared in American, Canadian and Hawaiian rings and has established himself as a firm favourite wherever he has displayed his talents.

In New Zealand, earlier this year, Ken Kenneth starred in two riotous contests with his arch rival, Al Costello of Australia. Ken defended his Australasian Championship against Costello and was beaten in one of the most heated contests ever seen in the Dominion. A return contest was arranged and the blonde Kiwi regained his championship in a match that equalled the previous encounter. Now that Kenneth is in Australia, Costello is demanding that he be given another opportunity to lift the championship from the broad shoulders of the New Zealander and it seems quite likely that this contest will be staged by the Leichhardt promoters during the next month. After a short campaign in Australia, Ken Kenneth intends to set sail for South Africa to do battle with Willie Liebenberg, Manie Maritz and Co.

Kenneth did not win his title in the ring but inherited it from Lofty Blomfield when the ex-champion retired. As there was no other heavyweight worthy of consideration in the Dominion, the championship was naturally conferred on Kenneth. However, this does not mean that he is an inferior champion as staunch followers of wrestling in New Zealand, after viewing several clashes between Ken Kenneth and Lofty Blomfield, realised that it would only be a matter of time before a new title holder was crowned. With every contest it was apparent that Kenneth was improving and just prior to the retirement of Blomfield, there was nothing between the two men. It is possible that Kenneth may have a challenger on his hands in the very near future as ex-amateur champion, Pat O'Connor, is currently in the United States, mixing with the tough American wrestlers. O'Connor has the advantage of having been trained by several of the leading importations and with an American season behind him will prove a tough handful for any of the professional matmen.

Apart from inheriting the New Zealand Championship from Lofty Blomfield, Kenneth also inherited the match-winning hold employed by the ex-champion. This hold is the dreaded Octopus Clamp, a vicious form of leg lock that means a certain submission fall whenever it is applied. Kenneth has become a master of the grip and keen observers consider that he is even more adept than Blomfield, the inventor, in its application. Kenneth is also a master of the Irish Whip which he uses to good effect. Apart from these two holds, the New Zealander has an extensive repertoire of holds and counters that keeps the fans in a constant state of amazement as he slips from one grip to another. Although he prefers to wrestle along orthodox lines, Ken also cuts loose with a display of rugged tactics at times and on these occasions the fans are sure of seeing a really rough contest.

Feature of the New Zealand season this year were the three contests between Ken Kenneth and Earl McCready, the Canadian veteran. Although Kenneth was defeated in each of the three bouts, he went very close to toppling the Canadian on more than one occasion and another year of wrestling may see him in the position that McCready now occupies. Among those who fell before Kenneth this season were Joe Campbell, Flash Gordon, Al Costello, Lou Sjoberg and Hal Keene. Keene was so badly battered in a contest with Kenneth that he returned to America.

Hailing from Auckland, Ken Kenneth stands 6ft. 1inch in height and tips the scales at 17st. 4lbs. Should Kenneth wind up his South African campaign by appearing in European rings, fans should not miss seeing him as they will witness an all-action grappler who has tangled with the best and more than held his own in the best of company.

British Judo Association.

Irish JACK RAYMOND, familiar figure in wrestling circles in Ireland.

THE B.J.A. was formed in 1948 by representatives of British clubs from all over the country, under the direction of Mr. G. Koizumi, father of British judo and acknowledged the greatest teacher and exponent outside Japan.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. G. Barnes, the Association has gone from strength to strength and is still growing rapidly.

The first judo club in this country was the Budokwai founded in 1918 by Mr. Koizumi, since when clubs have sprung up all over Britain, the Budokwai supplying teachers and giving help in every way possible. International matches were held during the inter-war years and have been resumed again, British judoka giving a very good acccount of themselves.

As the popularity of judo grew so did the amount of responsibility for outside activities grow until the Budokwai found it seriously interfered with the smooth running of the club. To take over all external matters, and to provide a governing body the British Judo Association was formed.

Since the formation of the B.J.A. the Association have organised courses and classes all over the country with the assistance of Budokwai club members, sent representatives to International conferences, been accepted as the ruling body for British judo by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, organised an annual judo display, and performed many other similar duties.

We are sure that judo will continue to grow until it reaches the stage where it will be taught in schools and everyone will accept judo as a good sport and physical exercise.

The term ju-jitsu is now completely outmoded and judo is the universal word.

ALAN GARFIELD just back from Australia WRITES TO MAT!

Dear Editor,

In some respects I am sorry to have been away from British rings for such a time, but then, one must go home sometime, if only for a short time. Things tend to pile up " down under "—including the wool business right now, where money in plenty can be made. At one out station where I stayed, £7 a day for sheep shearing was no astronomical figure, although this meant shearing a hundred or more sheep daily. This out station was equipped with electrical shearing apparatus which makes for slightly easier work—nevertheless, you back is bent for eight or ten hours each day.

Another group who are now cashing in on world shortages are Rabbit Trappers. This job incidentally, is the loneliest job in the world—often the trappers are working hundreds of miles from any form of civilisation. A friend of mine in Bradford would have eye trouble if he saw the number of skins handled weekly by four men I met. What he would give for those skins I should not like to hazard a guess.

One particular method they employ in catching these creatures is unique and results in gigantic yields. The men have invented their own particular brand of poison, which although fatal has a peculiar fascination for the rabbit. The method they use is to impregnate the roots of common thistle with this poison, the rabbits and the poison do the rest. Two thousand rabbits daily is their haul—and the weekly earnings sometimes amount to £600. The formula for the poison is, however, their own closely guarded secret. Don't worry, the rabbit flesh is not exported; the flesh is burnt in pits which are fired from beneath—it's the skins that bring the money.

I have brought my 77 h.p. Mercedes Benz Drop Head Coupe along with me, but by the look of British roads now since Petrol derationing with their thousands of motorists, it seems doubtful whether I shall be able to get my 2½ ton beast up to her maximum of 126 m.p.h. Never mind, a steady ninety now and again will at least get me from bout to bout.

I shall be looking forward to meeting old friends and haunts again, and if all goes well I shall be around to see each in turn.

ALAN GARFIELD.

A grim quartette! With an open challenge out to any four wrestlers, the PYE BROTHERS rush for their morning mail to see if anyone has accepted thir challenge. They look pretty disappointed as they scan what looks to us like another 'blank.'

"Where are all these men-eaters?" asks Jack. "We made a straightforward challenge to all, and we want no favours from any quarter in the ring. But where are they all? Some people have the idea that we of the Pye family can't wrestle. Just pick four wrestlers, any four, and persuade them to take us one if you can, and we'll give them a lesson they won't forget in a hurry."

WOT! ME?

by K.J.S.

ARE you guilty of stabbing your favourite sport in the back? "Wot! ME?" Yes, you, dear average fan. Now before you turn over the page in disgust and tap your forehead significantly, please read just a little further. It's so easy to fall into that attractive trap of trying to impress people and in doing so do your favourite sport a grave injury.

Imagine you are travelling home in a bus one evening and an acquaintance, knowing you are a wrestling fan, asks how you enjoyed the previous night's contests. Would the conversation go on something like this?

ACQUAINTANCE: "What happened last night?"

YOU: "Oh, two fellows had to be carried out of the ring, another one put his shoulder out of joint.

Now all this may have been a perfectly true statement of fact, but when that old lady behind you gets home it won't be fact for long! She may be one of those people who think everyone has a right to do as they like about seeing such goings on, but even so she will not be favourably impressed. On the other hand she may be one of those fiery old dragons who mind's everyone's business and is out to reform the world. She gets home seething with

anger and disgust that such things should be allowed in a civilised country and straight away writes off a vitriolic letter to one of the big daily papers. Already enough harm has been done to the sport but imagine what happens two days later. Thousands of people read that paper and for every one wrestling fan there is probably still two people biased against the sport. "There you are," they crow, "just what I've always said.

Suppose the old lady didn't write to the paper but just told her next door neighbour. Some people thrive on those sort of things and you may be certain that three or four people later that account wouldn't have lost anything.

Or look at the situation in another light. Sitting behind you, beside the old lady, may have been a young boy, say about ten years old. He sits there listening open-mouthed, thrilled to the core. Wrestling is a man's sport, he decides. When he gets home he is bursting to tell what he has heard. After a ten minute recital he finishes: "Gosh! It must be smashing!"

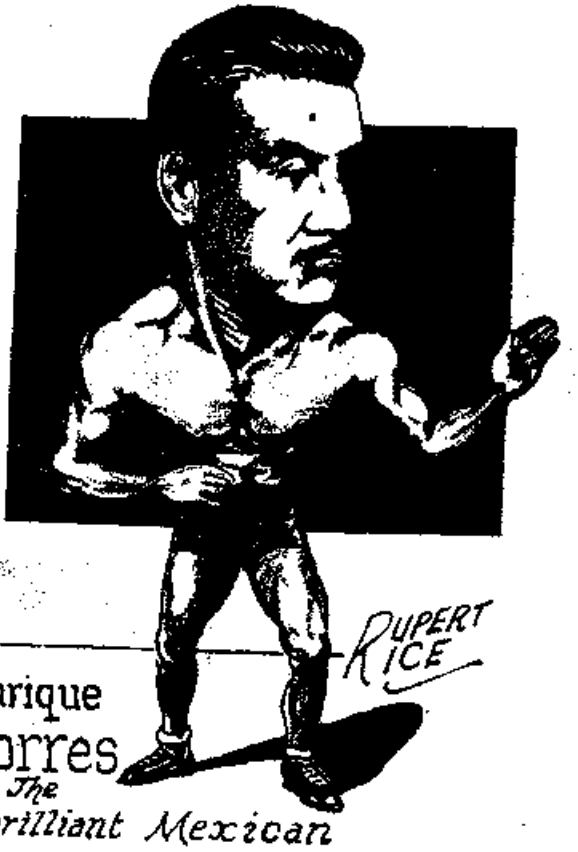
"Smashing?" snorts his mother. "It sounds horrible. They must be like a lot of animals pulling each other about like that! Anyway, you're not going, so let's not hear any more about it." Poor lad, and poor wrestling! Not only has it lost an ardent fan but maybe a potential first-class matman.

Quite naturally we want to impress people, but let's do it in future by pointing out the finer points of the sport. Let's resist the temptation to impress by stressing the more unsavoury occurances and prove to them that we wrestling fans are normal, intelligent people, not a lot of blood-mad hooligans like a lot of them seem to think we are. So remember, dear Ardent Fan, that the next time you speak of wrestling in the right way, you'll have struck a blow for the good of your favourite sport, no against it.

SUS LABROSSE of Belgium is presented with a bouquet after his Brussels contest, with Nick Van Dink. Wrestling in Belgium is well attended by enthusiastic crowds, and frequent visitors to that country are Alf Robinson (England) and Ken Davies (Wales). Also in Belgium at the latter end of last year was The Angel, who drew capacity houses wherever he appeared.

N. F. PREO

COVERING CHICAGO . .



PLAYING host to two world's title matches and several other bouts of national importance plus many other shows, Chicago took the wrestling spotlight of the nation during 1950 and Windy City promoters may outdo themselves in 1951 by outbidding each other for top-class talent and outstanding matches, all of which should make Chicago the beat wrestling town in the world during the coming year.

In the first of the two championship melees, **Chief Don Red Eagle** (recognised as champion by many after beating Frank Sexton at Cleveland), met **Gorgeous George.** This match which was won by George on a questionable decision, drew 5,200 customers into the International Amphitheatre. The other title match saw **Lou Thesz,** long proclaimed champion by the National Wrestling Association, defeat **Gorgeous George** and gain undisputed top rating in this country, before 7,675 fans at Wrigley Field, in an outdoor show.

The high mark, insofar as attendance was concerned, was reached when **Primo Carnera** and **Jim Londos** lured 13,877 customers into the huge Chicago Stadium.

Among the stars scheduled to appear here this year, the public is eagerly awaiting "**Dirty Dick**" **Raines,** whose reputation has preceded him. Raines is a type all of his own for on the mat he is one of the best all round rough-house wrestlers ever seen. Off the mat, he is a well mannered, soft spoken gentleman from Texas.

The sport would be dull and uninteresting without such men, as John Public wants to see spectacular drop-kicks and body slams along with fast and scientific wrestling.

Dick is a rough man and it doesn't take long for him to warm up to the job he enjoys, the fact is that he starts battling as soon as he enters the ring and often keeps going after the official ending of the match. He is noted for his give all attitude, which has caused him to lose more bouts via disqualification than any living matman competing in the game to-day.

This 235 pound Texan has competed in hundreds of bouts during the past ten years and has clashed with all the top liners. During 1950, his devil-may-care tactics have earned his disqualification against **Rito Romero, Gorgeous George, Billy Varga, Bronko Nagurski, Bobby Bruns, Sonny Myers** and countless others.

Regardless of what is written or said, the six foot two inch toughie from the Southwest has shown that he can trim any and all the grapplers who claim they are "meanies."

Chief Don Red Eagle

WHAT can one write of Chief Don Red Eagle that every sports fan in the United States of America does not already know?

Born at Caughnawaga in the province of Quebec, Canada; the son of Chief War Eagle, this full blooded Mohawk Indian began his athletic career early, starting in track, football and lacrosse. Turning to professional boxing, he won 17 of 22 bouts. Convinced by experts that he had a great future in wrestling, he entered the sport and soon developed into one of the best by winning the American Association title from Frank Sexton at Cleveland on May 23rd of this year and then losing it on a questionable decision to Gorgeous George three days later in Chicago.

Don has scored wins over the following top men during the present year, Frederich Von Schacht, Gorgeous George, Cyclone Anaya, Frankie Talaber, Benito Gardini, Rudy Kay, Walter Palmer, Chief Lone Eagle, Miguel Torres, Frank Hewitt, Kumon Kudo, Ronald Meeker, Ivan Rasputin, Great Togo, Ski Hi Lee, Don Evans and George Macricostas. He has also drawn against Antonino Rocca and Frank Sexton.

WRESTLING IN LITERATURE

by JAMES AUDSLEY

A GOOD many people nowadays sneer at wrestling. They cannot escape the fact, however, that this oldest and most natural of all sports has a wonderful history extending over several centuries—proof of which can be found in the number of great English writers who have taken it as a subject for their work.

Starting at the top, Shakespeare uses it in "As You Like It," which includes a bout in which the "hero" throws a professional wrestler. Many productions of this play hurry over this scene, but, some years ago, the great American company which starred the famous Polish actress, Helena Modjeska, and Maurice Barrymore—who was English, and the father of Lionel and John Barrymore—made a big feature of the wrestling incident. Barrymore was a well-known amateur boxer; and that great wrestler who afterwards became the "Czar" of American boxing, William Muldoon, was engaged for the role of Charles, the wrestler. Barrymore had to win, of course, but the pair put on an excellent show before Muldoon gracefully subsided, as ordered in the script.

Shakespeare was a poet; and, before going on to ordinary prose fiction, it is worth while mentioning another poet, the famous Victorian, Matthew Arnold, whose chief claim to fame as far as we are concerned is that he completely missed a perfect opportunity of immortalising wrestling in verse. Wrestling started before the beginnings of history, back in the days of mythology; and any history of the sport really has to start with legends, rather than hard facts. One of these deals with Afghanistan—still a great country for wrestling—and with Sohrab and Rustum. These two legendary heroes were actually father and son, but, separated during the son's childhood, they did not know each other, and became great rivals. This rivalry found expression in several titanic wrestling bouts, in the last of which the father killed his son. Matthew Arnold used this legend as the subject of a poem of nearly 1,000 lines: but nowhere in it is wrestling so much as mentioned, the struggles being duels fought with weapons. For my part, I still prefer the more generally accepted version of the story, in which these Afghan giants were wrestlers.

Of classic novels, probably the best known for its wrestling interest is R. D. Blackmore's "Lorna Doone." The hero, John Ridd, is a man of phenomenal strength and wrestling ability; and his fight with Carver Doone is a highlight of the story. This is not an arranged bout, but a fight to the death, though wrestling is the method used. Ridd does not actually kill his opponent, though it comes to the same thing, for Doone, having been thrown, is sucked into a bog, Ridd being too exhausted to help him, even had he wished to.

The popular writer, Jeffrey Farnol, was always keen on sport, particularly boxing; and many of his novels, set in the early nineteenth century Regency days, contain graphic descriptions of prize fights. These are not entirely without wrestling interest, for the old London Prize Ring Rules permitted wrestling throws, but they really belong to boxing literature. In one book, however, "Beltane the Smith," Farnol goes back to medieval times, before the days of prize-fighting, but not before those of wrestling. In the first chapter, the hero uses a wrestling throw to discomfort someone who is trying to pick a quarrel with him: while in the second, he has, and wins, a proper bout with Gefroi, a professional wrestler.

Looking for other instances of wrestling in literature, I turned to a book entitled "Great Stories of Sport." I was curious to see if wrestling had been included and, if so, just what stories the editor, Thomas Moult, had managed to find. Wrestling is included: in fact, it does very well, for it has three stories, whereas both soccer and rugby have to be content with one apiece. Each section of the book has its own title; and the very suitable choice for the wrestling group is "The Grip of Iron."

Moult was unable, apparently, to find any suitable short stories, for he has selected three excerpts from books, one being the fight which I have already mentioned from "Lorna Doone." Another is from "Rosalynde: Euphues Golden Legacy," by Thomas Lodge, who lived in Shakespeare's time: while the third is from "The Worm Ouroboros," by E. R. Eddison. The extract from "Rosalynde" deals with an early English tournament, in which a Norman wrestler, challenging all comers, is eventually thrown by the last of three opponents. Eddison's piece, which is from a work which I must admit is unknown to me, also deals with a proper bout rather than a mere brawl, but it is a somewhat fantastic one.

These few examples are enough to show that wrestling has been considered a suitable subject by classic and near-classic writers for some 350 years; and they bring out one very interesting point. Present day detractors of the sport, unable to deny its distinguished past, try to get round this by saying that modern wrestling is a brutalised form of what was once a great and manly sport. Is it? If one thing stands out clearly in these stories of the sport in its great and manly days, it is that no modern wrestling can compare with the old days for sheer brutality.

I have already mentioned the fatal end to the Sohrab-Rustum contests; and in most of the other bouts mentioned in literature the contestants were definitely out to kill each other. Though he does not succeed, Gefroi was trying to kill Beltane: John Ridd wanted to kill Carver Doone—and vice versa—and, during the bout, Ridd actually tears a muscle out of Doone's arm: the Norman wrestler in "Rosalynde" not only defeats, but kills his first two challengers: and the bout in "The Worm Ouroboros" ends fatally. So much for the excessive brutality of modern wrestling!!

Though wrestling has figured prominently in literature, it is almost entirely the literature of the past. None of the stories mentioned is particularly modern: certainly none is set in the present day. Boxing has been the subject of several books by modern authors writing about their own times: but, apart from some short stories in American magazines, wrestling has not fared at all well in recent years. Just why this is, it is difficult to say, for surely wrestling offers as much scope for excitement, drama and suspense as boxing. There would seem to be an excellent opportunity in a virtually unexplored field for a writer capable of telling a good story and really knowing wrestling. Though he might be ploughing a lonely furrow to-day, he would be following in some very distinguished footsteps.

★ JUNE BYERS to PROMOTE WRESTLING?

An exclusive MAT interview with June Byers. Recorded by JERRY WINSCHELL.

MEET a girl who really has her head screwed on firmly, June Byers! I had been told that she intended moving into the promotional side of wrestling in the future, but am naturally sceptical about anyone's ability to do so until I have got to know something about them and been able to judge just whether they COULD handle the promotional side of the sport.

When I met June Byers it didn't take long to weigh up her chances in the promotional role, and right now I'd say they're pretty rosy! Born in Texas, at Houston to be precise, she has auburn hair, a cream coloured skin and in the ring is a picture of grace. She is 5ft. 7ins. tall and weighs around 150lbs. She is accomplished in many walks of life and can knock off interesting wrestling stories or appear on television or radio. She was a great asset on three New York programmes in one day, winding up replying to Bill Stern's questions on a nation-wide 'hook-up.'

But I'll let June do the talking, shall I? Right, here we go!

"I have wrestled in every state in the union as well as in some foreign countries and I have learned something about ballyhoo and promotion. I'd like to become the first girl wrestler ever turned promoter. I'd like to promote wrestling in major stadiums or arenas, such as Chicago Stadium, Detroit Arena, as well as Madison Square Garden."

"You learn promotion work by being actively engaged in the sport. Do you realise there are only two women promoters in the country—neither of whom were competitors such as I am? Yet both are doing well. I like to wrestle for Mrs. Max Yeargain of Topeka, Kansas, and Mrs. Florence Turner of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Turner is a widow. She and Mrs. Yeargain learned wrestling promotion from their husbands, although the latter's husband is still living. Both have the feminine touch in promotion work and it pays off. They cater to women. Their arenas are clogged with women, who bring the men as well as their offsprings. They do a wonderful job from their offices, and I think I can too. I always liked sports, particularly wrestling. When I was a youngster I boxed and wrestled. We had a family of 14, six sisters and seven brothers and you can learn in that kind of a family! You learn to defend yourself, but you also learn to help your family. I was a nut on wrestling. My Uncle, "Ottawa" Roberts, was a light-heavyweight. He was tricky and fast and he taught me more about wrestling holds and how to break them than any male wolf. Houston is a hotbed of wrestling activity. I took to it early, then became a fan, and then a pro wrestler when Carl Davis dared me to turn to the ring. By the time I turned professional, I was well taught by not only Davis, but by Bob Managoff. I have a seven year old youngster, Billy, who is a corking prospect. He's a big husky lad for his age and he's tricky. You may not know it but I was a seamstress at one time. As a matter of fact, all the clothes I wear in the ring, suit and dressing gowns, are my own creations."

"During the off-season, and that rest isn't long, only a few weeks, I ride horses and engage in cat roping. I get a big kick out of rodeo sports and the best things I like are Texas mule races and horse flag races. Ask any Westerner about these sports. They're fun."

"I learned the hard way, I wasn't paid much at the start—not anything the girls earn to-day—but I got started and I can say that I earn better than $12,000 a year now. Wrestling isn't easy, never has been. You've got to apply yourself, mentally and physically. You must be able to take the bows as well as the boos. Yes, women do get booed sometimes in Western rings, where the matches are rugged and tough."

June says she has suffered many a broken collarbone and arm as well as black and blue marks and bruises. "You've got to be able to take it," she says. "But it pays off if you have the fire and ambition."

She points out that one of the hardiest of wrestlers is champion Mildred Burke. "She learned the hard way too," says the Titan Thunderbolt, "but look where Mildred is to-day—a champion, well respected and a very healthy and wealthy young women. Mildred can write out a cheque for $100,000 any day and not miss it."

"Now there is a lady," says June Byers, who is trying to emulate her as a champion, and if she can't, then she hopes to be the first girl wrestler to become a promoter. And that's a big ambition also.

Extract from Midwest Wrestling News

by DOYLE G. RUSSELL, famous American Wrestling Authority

Although I had been warned by her fans among my acquaintances that she is a rough and tough gal in the ring I still was not quite prepared for what I saw the first time I witnessed one of June's matches. She is that and then some. Her favourite hold, if that is the proper term, seems to be a right knee to the face or stomach. I had always considered my good friends Nell Stewart and Mae Weston as tops in roughness but I must admit they could pick up a few pointers from her in kneeing tactics

June says she started wrestling because she loves it and the money she clears yearly does not hurt a thing either. Strangely enough this second reason seems to be about unanimous among the girls. She says she likes to travel and meet new people which was a little disappointing to me as it explained why she seemed so delighted to see me when I had been thinking it was my charm and pleasing personality that did it.

As for tough opponents she admits there are many but she gives the blue ribbon to Champion Mildred Burke, as does many another girl wrestler. Mildred, she says, is a truly great champion. Her match with the champion was in Boston before a crowd of about 15,000 fans and a 2 out of 3 fall match. Of it June says, "I won the first fall and in the two falls that followed I learned more about wrestling than I had ever learned in the past 5 years." Truly a fine tribute to one fine wrestler from another. June adds, "Needless to say I lost for I am not yet champion, but am looking forward to as many matches as it takes me to win the championship belt."

June's principal ambition is neither to win the world's championship belt nor to wrestle in all the other countries of the world as well as in the very few States in which she has not already appeared, although there are objectives. The main ambition is to be the first woman wrestler to become an outstanding sports promoter in the United States. Something of a "Tex" Rickard, and quite logically as they both came from Texas. She points out that there are a few quite successful women promoters already and with her experience and contacts as a wrestler she should do even better. Perhaps we shall be hearing of a "Tex" Byers one of these years—she intends to wrestle for a long time yet, you know.

June was born June Sibley, has an eight year old son named William Henry Byers and nicknamed Billy Boy. She says, "I am really proud of him and he is my everything." A little insight on the real personality of one of the roughest girls in the ring. Billy Boy for his part proudly tells playmates, "Mama's rasslinn to-night."

MIKE MAZURKI, great American wrestling ace, has had plenty on his hands from time to time in the ring, but never has he had his arms more full than on this occasion. We'll give you the names of the ladies—but not the addresses! They are, left to right, **ELAINE YOUNG**, **LILLIAN LUDISCO** (at the back) and **BEA ALLEN**, three of Hollywood's beautiful ladies.

London Calling-

"GUS" Reports.

There is a great deal doing these days, and I am having a good old trot round looking out those little pieces of news for you all. It is a bit parky outdoors, too, so I do hope that you appreciate my tiny efforts.

Did you know that **Bill Shelton** is probably the oldest promoter still at it in this country to-day? He presented his first wrestling match at the Pentonville Baths in North London in 1903, and he has been promoting in that part of the world ever since. He now runs **Caledonian Baths** and the Town Hall, **High Wycombe**.

I have also discovered that Bill was by way of being a top-class walker in his youth, having done the mile in 6 minutes 46 seconds when he was nineteen. He is now seventy-eight and as active as a man twenty-five years younger.

One of the things that brings all this country together is the welcome that some of the Northern boys receive in the South. One of the most popular of our regular visitors is Doncaster's **Les Stent**, who always earns a great welcome in London.

My colleague on this magazine, **Graham Guthrie**, recently wrote a cabaret script for glamorous West End actress **June Petersen**. Versatile chaps on this paper, aren't we . . .

I hear that physio-therapist, **Tony Mansi**, has a thriving practice in North London. He is highly recommended by the doctors who have passed patients to him. You will know, of course, that he is tops in the ring, too.

Some of you may know that there is no longer any wrestling at the Drill Hall, Bexley Heath, where the Pittman family presented our favourite sport every Monday. This is due to action by the Army authorities quite unconnected with the conduct of the bouts, which was always first-class. Is that war any nearer?

(continued on page 29).

RAY GUNKEL, former University Champion, does most of his training outdoor whenever possible. Ray is certainly a powerful boy, and seems destined for a bright future in the mat sport.

In action now in England, is American heavyweight JOHNNY KIRKPATRICK, whose intended tour was reported in last month's MAT. Johnny tells us he landed at Liverpool a day late due to thick fog, and that he finds the weather rather more severe than back home in New York. He went into training shortly after Xmas and made his debut at Huddersfield, where the local fans gave him a great ovation. He intends to wrestle chiefly in Great Britain, but promoters in the big European capitals such as Paris have already sent representatives over to sign him up for contests. Kirkpatrick has already agreed to wrestle in Paris, and is also likely to visit Amsterdam and Brussels. British fans have gone for Kirkpatrick in a big way and he is likely to be one of the most successful American wrestlers ever to visit Great Britain. We recommend every fan to see this great star when he comes to the local stadium.

All over the English speaking world, people are reading MAT. There are, of course, other magazines available for the wrestling fan, and several of them are good publications. But MAT is recognised as the 'Bible' of wrestling by wrestlers and by fans alike, and consequently is sought after by all with any interest in the sport.

We give reports from many countries, and thus help those with an intelligent interest to get a better view of the world wrestling scene. The days when readers wanted to know only about their local wrestlers has long since departed, and to-day they wonder what the wrestlers in far off lands are like. That we endeavour to tell them via MAT, and we are constantly on the look-out for news from all parts of the globe. If you have news and photos, wherever you are, why not send it along to us?

LAROSSE, Canadian grappler, is not content to be on top, but actually uses his opponent's arm to assist him tie him up.

Chief Thunderbird Hits the Air

THERE has been considerable lament that the press of this country, and America for that matter, have always been hostile to the wrestling fraternity. The same cannot however be said of Radio and T.V., for even the staid B.B.C. went out of its way to introduce "Chief" Thunderbird on its "In Town To-night" Programme on November 18th last. This is a signal HONOUR for the wrestlers, for although we are alleged to have the fairest press in the world, a claim that would be most difficult to uphold as far as wrestling is concerned, the British Broadcasting Corporation has in fact a reputation second to none for refusing to touch anything which is phoney. The introduction of a mous wrestler "on the air" shows that the B.B.C. at least are more broadminded than some critics give them credit of being, shows also that the B.B.C. are endeavouring to move with the times, whatever other faults they may have, and have not been swayed by the various outbursts of the press against wrestling.

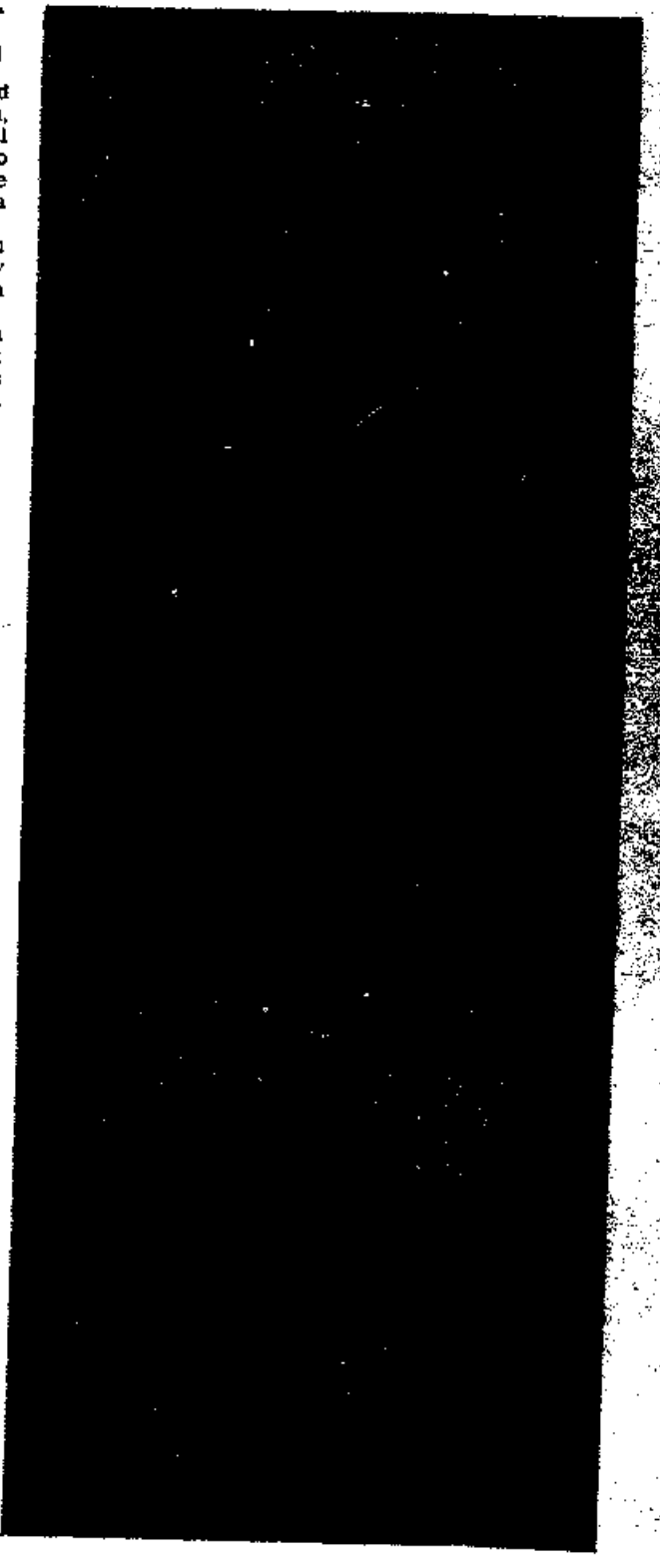
"Chief" Thunderbird is a 6ft. 2in., 17 stone full-blooded Sioux Indian from British Columbia. He was Chief in charge of the Red Indian Guard of Honour when their Majesties visited Canada in 1939 and further, is an experienced pilot who flys his own aircraft.

As pointed out in these columns on many occasions, the wrestler as a sportsman both in and out of the ring has no need to bow his head. Other sportsmen especially boxers readily admit he is a grand type of fellow. All credit then, must be given to the B.B.C., a high and honourable institution with a world wide reputation for honesty, for putting a wrestler on the air. It was a great triumph for the performers of the mat.

This famous Indian wrestler has appeared in many towns in Great Britain during his visit and is thrilled with the wonderful reception the public has given him.

"Chief" Thunderbird is well known to fans througout America, and is in big demand in all the big cities. We hope this article satisfies all our American readers who have been asking us what has happened to him. He is over here in England making a grand name for himself, as is another famous American heavyweight, Johnny 'Red' Kirkpatrick, that 'rip-roarin' fellow you sent over from New York. We don't mind Marshall Aid stopping, but don't stop sending fellows like these two. The British public think they're great!

London Calling



Wedding bells are ringing again. December 2nd saw Britain's ambassador to the rings of Spain, **Les Britton**, tying that final knot. My personal good wishes, as well as those of all our readers, go to this popular Southern wrestler, who is one of the best prospects of to-day. I shall try and get a wedding for you all.

Pre-war favourite, **Donald Haigh**, is now in America, but he is not wrestling now. He was very nearly in the veteran class when I first met him fifteen years ago.

Councillor **William Moore**, Chairman of Islington Baths Committee, London, shows a fair outlook that we all pray for in others of his status. He says that wrestling as municipal sporting entertainment should be encouraged, provided that it is conducted pproperly. He thinks that the **Mount-Evans Rules** will prove the saviour of the sport, which should never again be allowed to drift into the theatricalism and stunt mentality of other days. While the British people retain their love of sport, this wise councillor concludes, wrestling is sure of a place in the future. I need add no comment to this, for it is what we all feel in our hearts.

* * *

Trying hard, and quite unsuccessfully, to be inconspicuous, I spied film and television actor and stunt star, **Russell Westwood**. The latter has appeared in many films as a tough guy, including "Night and a City," with Mike Mazurki and Richard Widmark. He told me that wrestling is his favourite sport, and that he trains regularly in the gymnasium. He was a protege of the famous "Professor" Bill Klein, and has emulated many of the master's feats of strength. He also told me that he had acquired an Invicta, in addition to his two Mercedes racing cars, and hopes to enter for road races next year. With him were featured television actor, **Harry Green**, and a young lady who is all set for a great future in films, **Mary Murray**. They, like everybody else, thoroughly enjoyed their evening at the wrestling matches. In this they proved at one with many of the Hollywood stars who spend much of their spare time watching their favourite sport.

Russell Westwood, just like many thousands of others, is a regular of MAT, for he likes to keep in touch with the sport even when he is too busy to get along to see it.

* * *

The huge Earls Court Empress Hall was filled with people last time I visited it, for **Norman Morrell's** presentation; considering the vile weather, this proved beyond question that it is wrestling that is the indoor sport of the future, if not entirely of the present.

Russ Bishop, brilliant New Zealander, is considering a flying visit to Italy in March, and a tour of Canada. He will be leaving for the other side of the water on March 31st. Good wishes of all his fans will follow him wherever he decides to go.

Following up my paragraph earlier on, I went along to **Micky Wood's** gym and found it full of boxers. This kind, however, had four legs as the place had been taken for the evening for a Dog Show.

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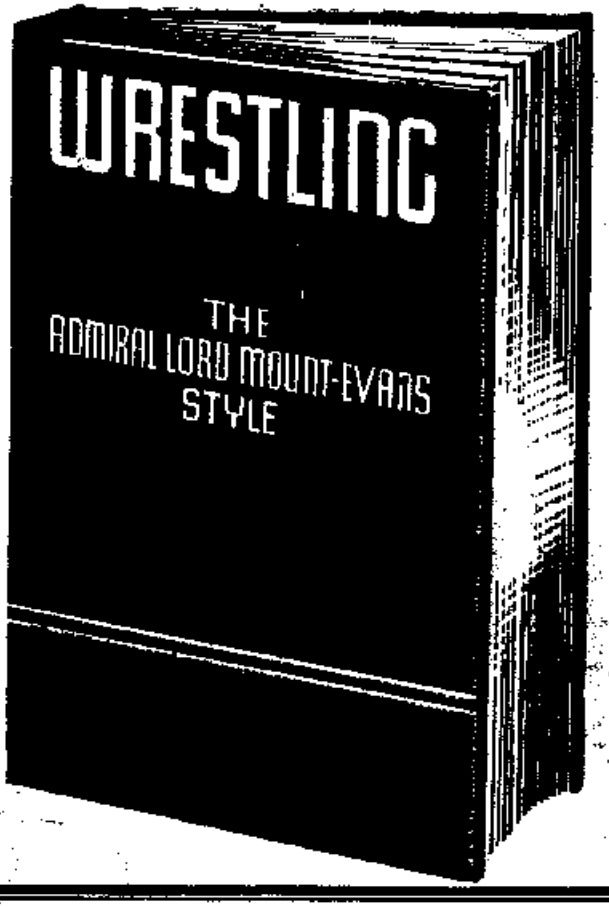

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